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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Agenda item 61
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 2 July 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to my letter dated 29 June 1998 (A/52/972-S/1998/586), I have the honour to draw your attention to further violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region of Nicosia by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, which were recorded on 30 June 1998.

On that day four Turkish military aircraft, two RF-4 carrying out aerial photography and two F-4, entered the Nicosia flight information region, in violation of international air traffic regulations. Two of those aircraft flew over the areas of Famagusta and Kyrenia, violating the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

As stated in my previous letters, such violations of the Nicosia flight information region and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus are in complete disregard of the Charter of the United Nations as well as the provisions of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus, which state that such overflights increase political tension on the island and undermine efforts towards achieving a final settlement, as well as violate international air traffic rules.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish once more to strongly protest these new provocative acts by Turkey, at the same time drawing your attention to the fact that these violations occurred just one day after the adoption of Security Council resolution 1179 (1998), which called for respect of the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus and for refraining from any action which might prejudice that sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sotirios ZACKHEOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

UNITED NATIONS

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Agenda items 20, 107 and 112
STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, QUESTIONS RELATING TO REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Identical letters dated 4 July 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly and to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you a statement issued on 3 July 1998 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea concerning the inhuman treatment by the Ethiopian Government of Eritrean nationals living in Ethiopia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly under agenda items 20, 107 and 112, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Haile MENKERIOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

98-19395 (E) 060798

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ANNEX

Statement issued at Asmara on 3 July 1998 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Eritrea

Ethiopia's gross violations of the human rights of Eritreans living in Ethiopia

1. In mid-May 1998, Ethiopia unleashed a war of aggression against Eritrea. Almost immediately thereafter, the Ethiopian Government started to violate systematically the human rights of peaceful Eritrean civilians living in Ethiopia in contravention of the basic provisions of all international agreements, conventions and declarations on human rights and in total disregard of the basic precepts of civilized international behaviour. These acts are continuing.

2. It has thus become incumbent on the Government of Eritrea to draw the attention of the international community to the plight of most Eritreans living in Ethiopia and the danger posed by these unwarranted and inhuman acts by the Ethiopian Government to stability and security in our region. The Eritrean Government wishes in particular to bring to the attention of the world the following flagrant human rights violations that are being routinely committed by the Ethiopian Government.

A. Expulsion

3. All States are required to respect and to ensure to all individuals - including aliens - living in their territories and subject to their jurisdiction the rights recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international instruments. Most of these instruments prohibit the collective expulsion of aliens.

4. Yet the Government of Ethiopia has embarked upon a policy of mass expulsion of Eritreans in total disregard of its international obligations. To date, it has collectively expelled about six thousand (6,000) Eritreans and there seems to be no indication that it will discontinue its policy in the near future.

5. These deportees did not have any chance to contact their family members or friends, since they were suddenly and unexpectedly apprehended from mosques, schools, offices and the streets without any warrant and hauled to detention centres with only the clothes they were wearing. They were then crammed into ill-fitted buses without toilets, where they spent more than three (3) days and nights, without water and much-needed medical attention.

6. Most of the deportees are elderly. Seventy per cent (70%) are fifty (50) years or older. Several are septuagenarians and octogenarians. Sixty per cent (60%) had lived in Ethiopia for between twenty five (25) to sixty (60) years. Some were born in Ethiopia. Some are of mixed (Ethiopian-Eritrean) parentage. Fifteen per cent (15%) are women. Fifty per cent (50%) are professionals who had served Ethiopia and its people in both the public and private sectors. A few are single parents who have been forced to leave behind babies and other

minors without making any arrangements for their care. None of these people could, by any stretch of the imagination, be considered a threat to the security of the Ethiopian State.

B. Arbitrary arrests and imprisonment

7. It is a basic principle of international law and practice that no one shall be subject to arbitrary arrest or imprisonment. Once a person is deprived of his/her liberty, the law requires that he/she shall be treated with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person and that he/she shall not be subjected to cruel and inhuman treatment or torture.

8. Yet the Ethiopian Government is indiscriminately arresting Eritreans, including school-children, all over Ethiopia, without any declaration of a state of emergency or notification of its actions to either the Organization of African Unity or the United Nations as it is required to do by international conventions which it has signed. These Eritreans are languishing in wretched and unhealthy detention centres in all parts of Ethiopia, including Addis Ababa, Fiche, Humera and Mekele. In the Fiche camp only, there are at least 1,000 Eritrean youths, including about eighty (80) students enrolled at Addis Ababa University on an educational exchange programme.

9. Most of the detention centres are concentration camps. In Humera, fifty (50) to sixty (60) detainees are crammed into dark containers (which are about twenty (20) cubic metres in size) or in equally small and unlighted cells. They are denied food and water and basic sanitation needs, including visits to toilets. They have been denied any communication either with relatives or legal representatives who may not know their whereabouts. Some have been tortured or subjected to inhuman treatment which violated their physical, mental and moral integrity.

C. Internal refugees (displaced persons)

10. The violence and destruction inflicted upon the Eritrean people by the Ethiopian Government has not only been limited to those residing in Ethiopia. Ethiopian aggression has also displaced tens of thousands of Eritreans from their villages and other domiciles, thereby causing extensive social disruption and economic damage. They need urgent food and medical assistance. Their need for shelter, food and medicine has already strained government resources.

11. There is no denial that any State can, under certain circumstances, impose restrictions on the political activities of aliens, as long as the measures it takes do not violate international law or practice. It is also acceptable that any country which is at war or in imminent danger of its independence or security being threatened may declare a state of emergency and may thus take measures derogating from its obligations under international conventions it has adhered to, as long as they are limited to actions necessitated by the exigencies of the situation. Even then, it is under a legal obligation to follow universally accepted and strictly applied procedures and to make sure that its actions are not inconsistent with its other obligations under international law. Surely, Ethiopia's actions are not covered by these

provisions, since no derogation is permitted from, inter alia, respect for the right to life, security of person and recognition as a person before the law.

12. It is also recognized that any person whose rights or freedoms are protected by international conventions and agreements shall have an effective remedy as well as an enforceable right to compensation, notwithstanding the fact that the violations have been committed by persons in an official capacity.

13. Finally, the Government of Eritrea is convinced that it is the duty of all States to contribute to the respect, promotion and protection of these essential rights of human beings by raising their voice, and by acting with commitment, when they are systematically subverted by any member of the community of nations. Accordingly, it requests members of the international community, inter alia, to:

- Denounce Ethiopia's gross violation of the basic human rights of the Eritrean people under its jurisdiction and to call emphatically for the immediate cessation of its hostile and unlawful acts;

- Demand the unconditional release of all detainees;

- Arrange for the early reunion of divided Eritrean families and to evacuate them by the safest means of transport possible, including airlifts;

- Ensure the protection of Eritrean property and means of livelihood in Ethiopia and/or to secure commensurate compensation for expropriated property and means of livelihood;

- Provide adequate assistance to Eritrean detainees, deportees and displaced persons.

14. It is to be noted that the Eritrean Government has, since the beginning of the dispute, scrupulously respected the human rights of Ethiopian citizens living in Eritrea. It will continue to do so. It has not and will not put civilian Ethiopians living in Eritrea in detention camps. It has not deported them. It has not taken action that will violate their physical, mental and moral integrity. It shall allow them to live in Eritrea as peaceably as they have done in the past. The Eritrean Government makes this undertaking to the world.

In this connection, the National Assembly of Eritrea, meeting in its eleventh session on 26 June 1998 declared that "the Eritrean Government has not, and will not, take any hostile action against Ethiopians residing in the country. Their right to live and work in peace is guaranteed. If this right is infringed under any circumstances or by any institution, they have the full right of redress".

To this end, the Government of Eritrea invites all interested Governments and organizations to visit Eritrea and independently to verify for themselves the situation in which Ethiopians living in Eritrea find themselves.

15. The Government of Eritrea also seizes this opportunity to reaffirm to the international community its firm commitment to the peaceful and legal resolution of the conflict and to the restoration of the amicable and harmonious relations that existed between the people of the two countries prior to the outbreak of hostilities.

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Fifty-second
Agenda items 36 and 37
Question of Palestine
The situation in the Middle East

Letter dated 8 July 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the joint communiqué issued on the occasion of the tripartite summit hosted by Egypt on 5 July 1998 (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you could make the necessary arrangements for the distribution of the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 36 and 37.

(*Signed*) Nabil **Elaraby**
Permanent Representative

98-20003 (E) 130798 130798

Annex

[Original: Arabic]

Joint communiqué of the Jordan-Palestine-Egypt tripartite summit held in Cairo on 5 July 1998

At the invitation of His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Hosni Mubarak, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, His Majesty King Hussein Bin Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, His Excellency Mr. Yasser Arafat, President of the State of Palestine and Chairman of the Palestinian National Authority and His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Hosni Mubarak, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, met in Cairo on 5 July 1998. The leaders agreed that their meeting represented a step forward in building the unified Arab position necessary to safeguard Arab rights in the context of a comprehensive and just peace. They discussed developments in the peace process and the grave situation in which it found itself because of the policies of the Israeli Government that had brought it to a complete halt on the Syrian, Lebanese and Palestinian tracks, thereby portending lost opportunities to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region and a return to the cycle of tension and instability.

In this context, the leaders reviewed developments with respect to the efforts being made by the United States, the major sponsor of the peace process, to restart the process. Having expressed their appreciation to the United States, they urge it to make public the results of its efforts based on the initiative that it proposed to the Palestinians and Israelis and that met with the agreement of the Palestinian side but was not accepted by the Israeli Government. They further expressed deep appreciation for the position taken by the European Union in support of the peace process, committed as it is to international legitimacy in accordance with the Madrid terms of reference and the principle of land for peace.

The leaders affirm their unconditional rejection of the plan for the Judaization of Jerusalem approved by the Israeli Government on 21 June 1998. They call upon it to abandon the plan forthwith and to refrain from taking any measures to implement it on the ground. They further call upon the Israeli Government to desist from taking unilateral measures, and in particular from engaging in settlement activity, from expropriating land and from demolishing homes, in conformity with the agreements concluded that prohibit any of the parties from taking measures that might prejudice the issues for the final-status negotiations.

The three leaders stress that the only way to save the peace process and bring it back on track is full and meticulous commitment to the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference, namely Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) and the principle of land for peace on all the respective tracks, in such a manner as to ensure withdrawal from the occupied Lebanese, Syrian and Palestinian territories and the exercise by the Palestinian people of its legitimate political rights, primarily the right to exercise self-determination and establish an independent Palestinian State with its capital at Jerusalem. They reaffirm the need for scrupulous compliance with the agreements already concluded, including the implementation of all three stages of further redeployment in accordance with the commitments given and the observance of all the deadlines set by the Interim Agreement.

The three leaders urge the co-sponsors of the peace process, the United States and the Russian Federation, the States members of the European Union and all other States, as well as those forces in Israel that support the peace process, to continue to make every possible effort to salvage the peace process and restore its credibility.

In this context, His Majesty King Hussein and His Excellency President Arafat expressed their support for the Egyptian-French initiative for the convening of an international conference of those countries that are determined to save the peace process. The leaders further stress that efforts should continue to prepare for the convening of an Arab summit meeting to confront the challenges to the efforts being made to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

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QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 9 July 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to my letter dated 2 July 1998 (A/52/973-S/1998/609), I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region of Nicosia by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded on 3 July 1998, only three days after the violations mentioned in my last letter.

On that day, 28 military aircraft and one military helicopter of the Turkish Air Force entered the Nicosia flight information region, in violation of international air traffic regulations, flying over the area of Rizokarpaso and thus violating the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

The aircraft in question were 12 F-16, 10 F-5, 3 C-130, 2 C-160 and 1 C-650.

As stated in my previous letters, such unauthorized intrusions into the Nicosia flight information region and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus are in violation of international air traffic rules. At the same time, they are in contravention of the provisions of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus, which state that such overflights increase political tension on the island and undermine efforts towards achieving a final settlement.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to protest strongly against these new provocative acts by Turkey, a member State of the United Nations, against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus. These acts are in complete disregard of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sotirios ZACKHEOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Fifty-second session
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QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 8 July 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 7 July 1998 addressed to you by Mr. Aytuğ Plumer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Volkan VURAL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

98-20092 (E) 100798

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ANNEX

Letter dated 7 July 1998 from Mr. Aytuğ Plümer addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the letters dated 23 and 29 June 1998 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative at the United Nations which contain allegations on "violations of the airspace of the Republic" (A/52/966-S/1998/560 and A/52/972-S/1998/586, respectively).

I recall that similar allegations of so-called airspace violations were rejected in toto in our previous communications addressed to you, most recently in my letter dated 28 May 1998 (A/52/927-S/1998/445). Since the present allegations are no different than the preceding ones, they do not merit a detailed reply. I wish to reiterate, however, that flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the appropriate authorities of the State over which the usurper Greek Cypriot regime in the south has no jurisdiction or nay right of say whatsoever.

These baseless charges put forward by the Greek Cypriot administration are aimed at diverting attention from its ongoing policy of escalation on the island. It will be recalled that on 16 June 1998 the Greek Cypriot administration brought the situation on the island to the threshold of a crisis by allowing the landing of Greek military aircraft at the newly constructed Paphos military airbase in South Cyprus. This is the first time that Greek military aircraft have been deployed in South Cyprus outside of a military exercise and, when viewed in conjunction with the planned deployment of the S-300 missile system and the construction of a naval base in South Cyprus, it constitutes a blatant effort by the Greek-Greek Cypriot front to alter the military balance on the island. It has long become clear that this is indeed the objective behind the "joint military doctrine" being implemented by the Greek Cypriot administration and Greece since 1993.

The remarks made by the President of Greece, Constantinos Stephanopoulos, during his four-day official visit to South Cyprus from 25 to 28 June 1998 to the effect that "Cyprus itself is Greece" (Greek Cypriot press of 26 June 1998) sheds light on the true political and military objectives of the Greek-Greek Cypriot front. Mr. Stephanopoulos made no secret of the fact that an important aspect of his visit to the island was "to examine the possibility of qualitative improvements" in the "joint military doctrine" being implemented between the Greek Cypriot administration and Greece (Greek Cypriot daily, Cyprus Mail, of 26 June 1998).

Meanwhile, in the Greek Cypriot daily Fileleftheros of 1 July 1998, it is reported that the Greek Cypriot leader, Mr. Glafcos Clerides, has urged the Greek Cypriot House of Representatives to proceed speedily with the enactment of necessary legislation to increase taxes in order to raise the contribution to the so-called "defence" fund. Mr. Clerides' sense of urgency about this matter is not surprising given the staggering proportions of the Greek Cypriot militarization programme. In this regard, in the 5 July 1998 edition of

Fileleftheros, it is reported that the Greek Defence Minister, Mr. Tsohatzopoulos, will be visiting South Cyprus on 20 July 1998 and will be bringing with him the message that Greece will extend substantial financial support for joint short-term military projects in South Cyprus. Reportedly, Mr. Tsohatzopoulos's priority at this juncture is the completion of the naval base being constructed in Zyghi, South Cyprus, for use by the Greek navy.

It is high time that all parties interested in a peaceful settlement of the Cyprus dispute urgently draw the attention of the Greek Cypriot side to the dangers inherent in its reckless policy of escalation and tension on the island. As a result of the inability of the Greek Cypriot side to come to terms with the realities on the island and its obsessive efforts to impose its political will at all costs, the prospects of a peaceful settlement in Cyprus are diminishing.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

Aytuğ Plumer
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus